Inquiry into purchase of rifles from Denel

†903. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted or propose to conduct any inquiry into the alleged taking of commission in the purchase of rifles worth crores of rupees from South African arms manufacturing company, Denel, during the year 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The alleged payment of agency commission by M/s Denel in connection with the contracts of anti Material Rifles signed in 2002, has been referred to the CBI for investigation, as there was *prima facie* evidence of violation of clauses relating to use of undue influence and agents/agency commission. An FIR has also been filed by the CBI in the matter, *inter alia,* against unknown public servants.

Threat of terrorist attacks from sea route

904. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the recent reports regarding vulnerability of Mumbai and the adjacent region to possible terror attacks from the sea route;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC also is exposed to such threats;

(c) whether Government are aware of the complicity of certain elements in Government agencies and the local fishermen in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether patrolling by the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard has been weak in this region; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken to strengthen the security to discount any untoward terror attacks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) To counter possible threats of attack, assessment of vulnerability of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.